

# A



## Anchorage

Anchorage is the ceremonial start of the Iditarod. It is where the Serum run started. It is a modern city. It's the largest city in Alaska. It is very cold there.

# B



Balto

Balto was a famous dog and Balto got the medicine for diphtheria and saved Nome. Balto got very sick. His owner was named Gunnar. He was a good dog. He saved lots of people lives too! If it was not for Balto some people in Alaska would not be alive. He ran through some blizzards but nothing stopped Balto! He was a good sled dog. He was lots of help when he got the medicine for the diphtheria. There is a statue in Central Park in New York City. He is stuffed and on display in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

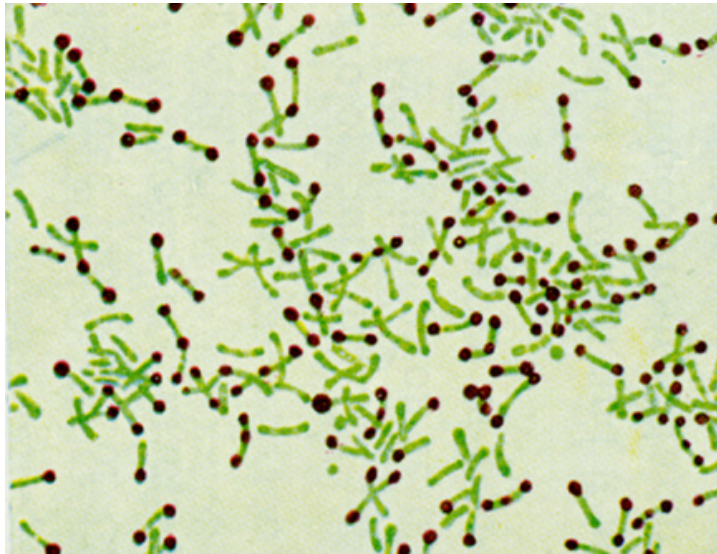
# C



## Checkpoints

A checkpoint is a place where the mushers stop to check their dogs. They also have to sign their name so the officials know they have made it. They can also take a break and get some food and sleep. Nome is the finish of the Iditarod. Point Safety is one checkpoints from Nome. White Mountain is two checkpoints from Nome. Iditarod is a ghost town. Iditarod is 90 miles from the next checkpoints. Eagle Island has the mighty Yukon River.

# D



## Diphtheria

Diphtheria is like a mucous from your nose but it clogs your throat. Diphtheria was like a really bad cold and makes you die. It is a bacterial infection. Now we don't have it because we go to the doctor. Diphtheria came with Columbus when he sailed to America. Children in Nome had Diphtheria and they had a sled dog race to get the medicine. This is how the Iditarod got started.

# E



Elim

Elim is a checkpoint for the Iditarod. Elim is close to Nome.

Elim is 4 checkpoints away from Nome. Also Elim is 20 checkpoints away from Anchorage. The check point is a old Fire Hall. Students are out of school around the time when the mushers will be coming through.

# F



## Finger Lake

In Finger Lake there is a place called Happy River Gorge. It isn't a really happy place in the Iditarod. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> checkpoint. It is 937 miles away from Nome. It is on the far west of the lake.

Most mushers give their dogs a snack and go race again.

# G

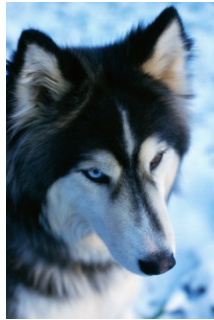
## Gear



The snow hook is for stopping the dogs. Runners are to get going! The head lamp lights up the dark, dark Alaska nights. Sometimes, mushers bring an ax. I don't know exactly why, but I think it's to scare off moose. You'll need to bring a bucket to carry water in. You also need a first aid kit, in case someone on the team is hurt. There has to be some snowshoes, in case you have to walk in the deep cold snow. The dog harness keeps the dogs from running away and so they can pull the sled. There should be dog booties for the dog's feet too. The dogs need some dog food. You have to have a tent in case you need to camp out for the night.

# H

## Huskies



Huskies are the most common dogs for the Iditarod. Huskies are trained to listen and be strong. The huskies eat hamburger patties, beef, fat, lamb, chicken, and other meat. Huskies are often put on teams. The Siberian husky is a powerful, affectionate, brave, energetic, and strong muscular dog. The Siberian husky has a long, thick coat that lets the huskies live in EXTREMELY cold weather. In some huskies, one eye is blue and brown. The Siberian husky is a medium sized dog. It is less than 2 feet. Siberian huskies come in a lot of colors from black to white. Siberian huskies are gentle and very playful. Siberian huskies are most playful when they are puppies. Huskies are very intelligent and very trainable. Siberian huskies are not watch dogs. Siberian huskies need a right amount of exercise.



# I



## Iditarod

Iditarod checkpoint is the halfway point in the race. If you get there first you get gold. The name Iditarod was originally Haiditarod-or distant place in Ingulik. Iditarod was never a gold mining town. It was a business town. Miners came here to buy supplies. Iditarod was served by two newspapers. Now Iditarod is a ghost town. When the miners left the shop owners moved their buildings to the nearby town of Flat.

# J



Joe Reddington Sr.

Joe Reddinton Sr. is the father of the Iditarod. The first Iditarod was in 1973. When Joe was 62 he made it to the top of Mt. McKinley in 1979. In 1976 Joe organized the largest dog team which pulled a tour bus filled with passengers up Knik Road. Joe died in 2000. He was 82 and was planning to run in the Iditarod

# K



## Koyuk

Koyuk is a checkpoint. If you leave Koyuk you will be on ice, you will be on the frozen Norton Sound! The distance from Anchorage is 989 miles! The distance till Nome is 123 miles!

That's a long way!

# L



Libby Riddles

Libby Riddles was born in Madison, Wisconsin. She moved to Nelchina just before her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her first race was a small local race in 1978. She received a major lead dog from one of her friends. She was the first woman ever to win the Iditarod. She won in 1985 in 18 days, 20 minutes, and 17 seconds.

# M



Musher

A musher is the person who drives the sled for a little over 1,000 miles. The last musher to Nome gets the Red Lantern award. The first musher to Nome gets a lot of money. The first twelve to Nome win money. There are a lot of mushers in the Iditarod. A musher must a dog a certain amount of food and water. A musher must take two eight hour stops and one twenty four hour stop.

# N



## Northern Trail

Northern Trail has 26 checkpoints. The Northern Trail is shorter than the Southern Trail. The Northern Trail is 1,121. The checkpoints on the Northern trail are called Cripple, Ruby, Glena, Nulato. The Northern Trail is used on even years. This lets the small towns on the route rest every other year.

# O



## Ophir

Ophir is the checkpoint that separates the Northern trail and the Southern trail. Mushers will go through Ophir on each of the trails. Miners named Ophir for the country where King Solomon found his gold in the Old Testament. The checkpoint is cabin that dates back to 1930. The cabin's a mile short of Ophir. In the town there's only an airport and some buildings.

# P



## Point Safety

Checkpoint before Nome, 22 more miles .In the end of the corner and you can see the Safety Bridge ahead. The trail will bypass to the left of the bridge. The abandoned old warehouse-like building coming up to the far side of the Safety Bridge. The warehouse looking thing is really the Safety Roadhouse, the last checkpoint before each musher reaches Nome. A lot of mushers don't stop in Point Safety that long-but long enough to pick up their bib numbers for the last 22 miles until they reach Front Street. All mushers are able to ship to Point Safety. For the dogs each musher would like a little snack to be sent there for the dogs to eat.



# Q



## Quit

The Iditarod is a very difficult race. Many mushers are not able to finish the race and may quit. This is also known as *scratched*. They may scratch for several reasons. One may be that they are afraid for the safety of their dogs. The other is if they are afraid that they cannot go any farther.

# R

## Red Lantern



The last person gets the red lantern.

The first red lantern was given out in 1953. The red lantern started as a joke but then it became a symbol. The fastest person to win the red lantern was David Straub it took him 14 days 5 hours 38 minutes and 12 seconds.

# S



## Southern Trail

The Southern Trail is used in odd years. There are 25 check points on this trail. There is a total distance of 1161 miles to race on this trail. They began to use this trail instead of just the Northern Trail so musher could travel through the ghost town of Iditarod.

# T



Togo

Togo is a strong dog. He ran farther than Balto's team. His musher's name was Sapalla. He had a good sense of direction and ran in a straight line.

# U

## Unalakleet



Unalakleet means place where the east wind blows.

Unalakleet has a couple of well-stocked stores and a restaurant.

It is the biggest town between Wassila and Nome.

Unalakleet is a check point in the Iditarod.

The check point is usually in the old convent school gym.

# V



## Volunteer

Without volunteers the race could not go on. Volunteers are the most important part. Volunteers are everywhere on the Iditarod trail. Some volunteer jobs are:

1. Phone room
2. Merchandise sales
3. Dog handling

Volunteers help people in need. The people in the Iditarod Air Force are volunteers and the vets are volunteers. Nothing can get done without volunteers.

# W

## Widow's Lamp



The Widow's Lantern is lit at noon on the first Sunday in March. This is the official restart of the Iditarod. A lantern was lit to let people know mushers were on a trail. The light would help them find their way home. The lantern is hung at the finish of the Iditarod and is not extinguished until all mushers have arrived.

# X



## X-treme Weather

The weather during the Iditarod is very *x-treme*. This means that it can get very cold. At times the wind can blow up to 50 mph! Also the temperature can get as cold as 40 degrees below zero! You need to have warm gear if you are to survive and not scratch! So *zipper* up and stay warm!



# Y

## Yukon River



The Yukon River is 3185 km long. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> longest river in the area North America. It does flow North and Northwest through the Yukon Territory. It goes into Alaska. Also the Yukon River is the longest river in the area Yukon and Alaska.

# Z



Z . . . Z . . . Z . . .

Many times the mushers race for an entire day without sleeping. They get very tired and can even fall asleep while they are racing. Some mushers will sleep at their lay over. The dogs lay on hay outside, while mushers sleep in warm cabins. Even when they are sleeping, they listen for a musher to leave.

Nobody wants to fall behind!